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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord of life, rescue us from the faults to which we are prone. Keep us from saying one thing and doing another; from criticizing others for what we allow in ourselves. Keep us from demanding standards from others which we ourselves make no effort to fulfill. Lord, keep us from the indecision that cannot say "yes" or "no." Keep us from the reluctance to break habits which we know are wrong. Today, keep our Senators from anything that prevents them from giving all their loyalty, allegiance, and heart to You. And Lord, comfort the loved ones of Tyre Nichols. We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. DUCKWORTH). The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. SCHUMER. First, Madam President, we will do a little housekeeping, and then I will give my remarks.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 123

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 123) to protect American small businesses, gig workers, and freelancers by repealing the burdensome American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 transactions reporting threshold, and to rescind certain funding provided to the Internal Revenue Service under section 10301 of Public Law 117-169.

Mr. SCHUMER. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

REMEMBERING TYRE NICHOLS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on Friday, the city of Memphis released the brutal, truly sickening body cam footage of the murder of Tyre Nichols.

I am heartbroken, horrified, and appalled by this heinous murder. This should have just been a routine traffic stop. It never, never should have ended the way it did, in unnecessary violence and bloodshed.

The repetitiveness of unjust murders like Tyre Nichols' is a stain on America. The five police officers who betrayed their oath to serve and protect should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

We should remember Tyre for who he was and for the life he lived. By all accounts, he was a beautiful and gentle soul. He was creative, he was energetic, and he was deeply passionate about the things he loved most: sunsets, skateboarding, and, above all, his family. He was a father, a son, a friend, a talented young man with his whole life ahead of him, and he should still be alive today.

So let us honor his memory by bringing lasting, meaningful change to create a more just and a more fair America, our long-trodden path to try and make this country—this beautiful country—a more perfect place and a more perfect nation.

DEBT CEILING

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on the debt ceiling, one of Congress's top priorities this year is ensuring the United States does not default on its debt for the first time in our history. Even approaching a default would be disastrous for American families. The damages will show up on everything from people's credit card bills, their mortgage rates, and when applying for things as basic as a car loan. It risks thousands of dollars lit on fire for millions of American families. Everyone's life in this country will take many steps backward if we default.

Now, Republicans have done a lot of talking about cuts, but when it comes to actually showing us a plan for avoiding default, they are playing a dangerous game. Republicans, it is time to come out of hiding, put pen to paper, and show us your plan. Republicans, show us your plan.

According to some reports, Republicans want significant cuts across the board. But from where? Is funding for our troops safe? We don't know. Republicans, show us the plan.

Is funding for police and firefighters and first responders safe? Republicans, show us the plan.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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